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BOROUGH OF ST. IVES (HUNTS)



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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH  
AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR 1954

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The Ridley Press, Cambridge and St. Ives.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SAINT IVES (HUNTS.)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER, 1954

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To:—

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough  
of St. Ives (Hunts.).

*Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to present my second Annual Report  
on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough.*

*The year under review has not been marked by any major  
change in the general health of the Borough. The birth-rate  
remains above the average for the country—although there  
were fewer births this year. Infantile mortality has shown a  
considerable decrease over last year's figure and is now well  
below the national average. The death-rate is higher than  
the figure for last year and is still above the average for Eng-  
land and Wales as a whole. By far the most frequent cause  
of death is due to disease of the cardio-vascular system. The  
next cause, in order of incidence, is cancer. This is in com-  
mon with the rest of the country generally.*

*It is gratifying to see that yet again no case of either  
Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis occurred during the year. The  
incidence of notifiable infectious disease occurring in the  
Borough is exceedingly small—measles and infective hepatitis  
being the most prevalent. Preventive measures to control the  
spread of infectious disease have proved quite adequate.*

*In conclusion I should like to express my sincere thanks to  
all members of the council for their kindness and considera-  
tion they have shown to me and also to all their officers for  
their unfailing assistance and co-operation.*

*I am,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

J. CALDWELL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

G. G. YEANDLE, M.R.S.I.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	2,326 acres.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£22.023
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£87
Number of inhabited houses (approx.)	...	...	...	...	...	1,149
Population	...	...	...	...	...	3,300

### VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	25	30	55	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	1	1	2	estimated population 17.3
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	26	31	57	and Wales) ... .. 15.2
	—	—	—	

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	—	—	—	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	1	0	1	(live and still) Births 17.2
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	1	0	1	and Wales) ... .. 23.4
	—	—	—	

DEATHS	M.	F.	Total	
(all ages)	23	19	42	Death-rate per 1,000
				estimated population 12.7
				(Ditto for England
				and Wales) ... .. 11.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
	—	—	—
Total	1	0	1
	—	—	—

Death-rates of Infants under 1 year	
All infants per 1,000 live births	17.5
(Ditto for England and Wales)	25.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	18.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—



# CAUSES OF DEATHS

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Causes	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other ... ..	0	0
3	Syphilitic ... ..	0	0
4	Diphtheria ... ..	0	0
5	Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections ... ..	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	0	0
8	Measles ... ..	0	0
9	Other infective and parasite diseases ...	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	0	0
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	0	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	0	0
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	0	0
16	Diabetes ... ..	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	6	3
18	Coronary disease, angina ... ..	3	1
19	Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	0	0
20	Other heart disease ... ..	2	5
21	Other circulatory disease ... ..	0	2
22	Influenza ... ..	0	0
23	Pneumonia ... ..	0	0
24	Bronchitis ... ..	1	0
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	0	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ...	0	0
31	Congenital malformations ... ..	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	6	0
33	Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	0	0
34	All other accidents ... ..	1	1
35	Suicide ... ..	0	1
36	Homicide and operations of war ... ..	0	0
		—	—
Total all causes...		23	19

# GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

## (a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available in this authority and to General Practitioners in the area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

## (b) Ambulance Services

(i) Ambulance administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctors' orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

(ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease. Tel.: Huntingdon 59.

## (c) Home Nursing

A nurse-midwife, resident in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2228), employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council, carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity cases in the Borough.

## (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic, Station Approach St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren. Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3.30 p.m.  Every Wednesday (ex- cept 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. (By appointment.)	Ditto.   Dental Clinic, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2 p.m.-4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Ditto.

(iii) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4-6.30 p.m. Males: Mondays, 5.30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30-7 p.m. Females: Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

#### (e) Hospital Services

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all hospitals in the area came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

**Fever.**—Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provided facilities for the investigation and treatment of Infectious Diseases.

**General Hospital Services** are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

**Maternity Cases** were admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged by the County Medical Officer.



## SANITARY CONDITIONS

**1 (1) Water.**—The Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board who supply the Borough with water in bulk and whose works are situated in Cambridgeshire, have maintained a good pressure throughout the year, and there has been an ample supply and no complaints were received as to shortage even on the outskirts of the Borough which is as a rule the first part of the district to be affected.

The Water Board's treatment of the water remains the same, that is Chlorination and De-chlorination at source. 143 samples were taken in the district during the year and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, for examination and report, of these 2 were found to be unsatisfactory, and after re-submission, were found to be satisfactory, the trouble having been traced to faulty taps.

The total rainfall for the year was 26.63 inches, which is considerably above the average for the district, 8.95 inches more than the previous year, consequently no complaints were received as to shortage of supply from the few private supplies which remain.

Name of Town, Village or Parish	Source of Supply:— Public Supply, Wells, etc.	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Analysis of Individual Supplies:— Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, or none
St. Ives	Purchased in bulk from Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	141 analyses were satisfactory from the Public supply. 2 were unsatisfactory and were corrected.

Number of such Analyses 143	Estimated Number of Dwellings Supplied			Estimated Population Supplied		
	Direct from Main Supply: 1,080	By Stand-pipes: 44	By Public or Private Wells: 25	Direct from Main Supply: 3,103	By Stand-pipes: 126	By Public or Private Wells: 71

**(2) Drainage and Sewage.**—During the year a small plant consisting of sludge and filtration beds has been installed and is now working, which deals with 50 Council Houses and a Secondary Modern School, this scheme avoids extra sewage being discharged to the lower parts of the Town and assists in preventing the overloading of the existing sewers in the centre of the Town.

Apart from maintenance no further works have been carried out in the area.



**2 Rivers and Streams.**—Further works, dredging and banking have been carried out downstream by the River Great Ouse Catchment Board who are responsible for the control of the main river, it would appear these works have materially assisted in the prevention of flooding owing to the fact that rainfall during the year was abnormal, particularly during the month of November, yet no serious flooding of houses occurred.

The minor ditches and water courses under the control of the Borough have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

**3 (1) Closet Accommodation.**—Apart from two properties which were erected beyond the limits of the existing sewerage system all new houses were connected to the existing sewers.

The collection and disposal of night soil was carried out by the Council by direct labour and no complaints were received during the year.

**3 (2) Public Cleansing.**—The St. Ives Rural District Council continued under contract to carry out the collection and disposal of house refuse, although it was still found possible to cover the whole of the area by a one day collection it was found necessary to employ an extra vehicle owing to the increase in quantity of house refuse and the extension of the built-up area due to the Council Housing Estates, etc. The scheme, as a whole, works satisfactorily and is the most economical way of carrying out this service.

The collection of waste-paper and other salvage materials has not been re-introduced owing to the lack of demand for these materials.

**4 Shops and Offices.**—Improvements of a minor character were carried out by the owners on notification, and no complaints were received during the year.

**5 Camping Sites.**—No applications for the licensing of camping sites were received during the year, and no licences have been previously issued.

**6 Smoke Abatement.**—No nuisances were observed during the year, and no complaints were received.

**7 Swimming Baths.**—The matter of improving the existing swimming pool so that it could be reopened, or the provision of a new swimming pool was again considered, but the financial side remains a serious problem, and no definite decision was made.

**8 Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—No cases of infestation were reported during the year and none found during routine inspection.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) **Milk Supply.**—There has been no alteration from previous years, the milk supply which is retailed and delivered in bottles is produced outside the Borough area. No complaints were received.

(b) **Meat.**—The Borough Slaughterhouse which, for a number of years, has been occupied by the Ministry of Food, was vacated during the year, and has since been operated by agreement with a firm of local Estate Agents, the change over appears to be working satisfactorily. There has, if anything, been an increase in the number of animals being slaughtered, and improvements are being carried out to cope with the extra work.

The examination of all meat is carried out by officials appointed by the Huntingdonshire County Council.

(c) **Bakehouses.**—There are two registered bakehouses in the Borough which have been conducted satisfactorily.

## INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	9	23	Nil	Nil
(2) Section 7	42	49	Nil	Nil
Total	51	72	Nil	Nil

Defect	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	2	2	—	1
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	1

## HOUSING

### 1 Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	129
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	144
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	7
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	7
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	0
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	11

### 2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	7
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### 3 Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a)		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
		(a) By owners ... ..	0
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b)		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	0
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
		(a) By owners ... ..	0
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0



- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ... 0
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... 0
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ... 0
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 0

**4 Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—**

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year ... 0
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 0
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 0
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 1
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 1
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 4
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... 0
- (e) The Council is proceeding with a scheme for the erection of 20 council houses and 8 bungalows for aged persons. There are approximately 90 applicants for council houses at present.

Number of new houses erected and number of new dwellings provided by adaptation during 1954:—

New Houses by		By Adaptation	
Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Local Authority	Private Enterprise
56	5	None	None

## TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1954: 26

Pulmonary: 23

Non-Pulmonary: 3

AGE PERIODS			New Cases— Diagnosed				New Cases— Transferrs				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 & over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	I	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

## CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

								Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
								—
								I3
								—

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	33	38	4	—	—	1	2	78
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	—	—	1	12	16	29

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the district of children up to the age of 15 years:—

Age at 31.12.54 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-1950	5-9 1949-1945	10-14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster).					
A. 1950-1954	5	169	177	129	480
B. 1949 or earlier	—	—	83	154	237





